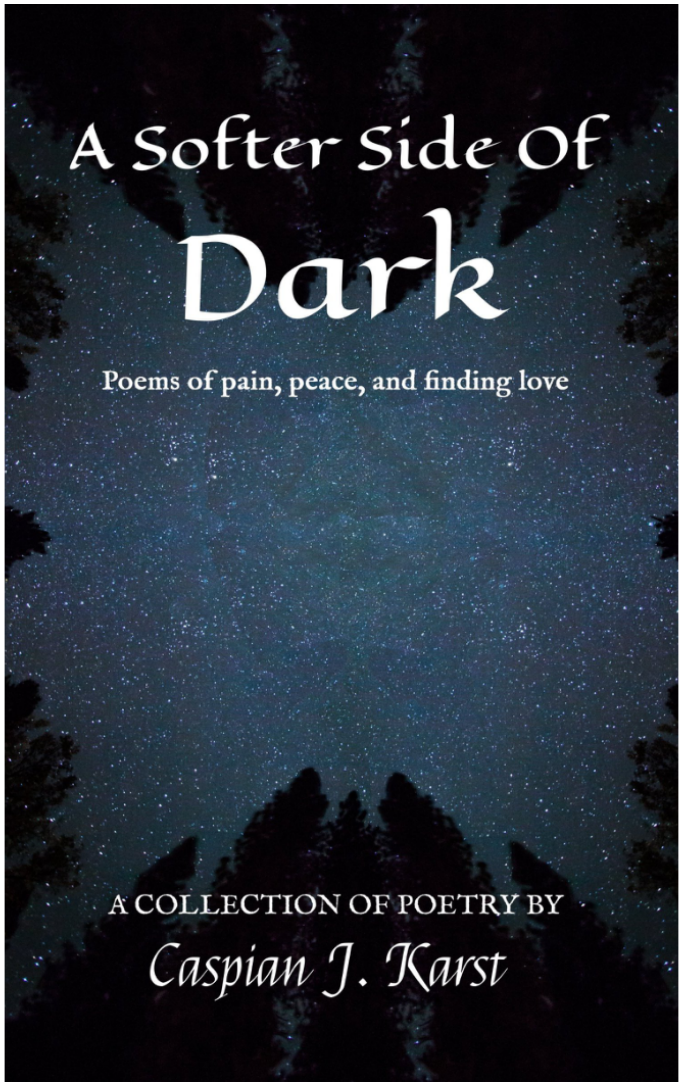
A Softer Side Of
Dark
Poems of pain, peace, and finding love
A COLLECTION OF POETRY BY
Caspian J. Karst

Table of Contents

Introduction
SECTION I — The Wounds

- Brightness
- Drowning
- Tears
- Still Valuable
- Broken Free
- Hard Truth
- Humbled
- His Eyes
- Medusa
- Conquered
- Flawless

Section II — The Encounter

- Before You Speak
- My Quiet Embrace
- Your Night Calm
- Warm Shadows
- Silent Haven
- No Fear
- The Thaw

SECTION III — The Awakening

- How I See You
- The Return
- Morning Light
- Renewed
- Never Needing
- Awoken
- Roots

Section IV — The Mutual Opening

- Free Together
- Rest Together
- Her Strength
- Saved Together
- Stronger Together

SECTION V — The Choosing

- Ablaze
- Completed
- The Risk
- Love Prevails
- Hope
- Our Life

SECTION VI — The Union

- Peace of Love
- Haven
- Two Hearts
- Melt Together

Copyright

Introduction

Life can take more than we ever expected.
May these words remind you of the good.

Caspian J. Karst

SECTION I — The Wounds

Brightness

Reaching for the sun,
Soaking in the hope,
That dreams come true,

But thorns prick you,
Bleeding you slowly,
Taking what is inside,

Withering from the pain,
Accepting the cold truth,
That this is all life is,

Playing the game well,
Using before you are used,
Consuming all kindness,

Through my eyes you see,
The person you once were,
As I pull you gently close,

Your courage blooming,
Flourishing past the hurt,
Seeing the brightness again.

Drowning

Moving slowly through the day,
Sinking under the weight of life,
Your soul strained by the burden,

Knowing you must never yield,
You smile to hide the pain,
Hoping to make it through the day,

Numbed by the struggle to survive,
I see your chaos beneath the calm,
The deep waters engulfing you,

Offering a steady shoulder,
A warm embrace of comfort,
Wrapping you in understanding,

As my words softly comfort you,
You breathe in a cleansing sigh,
Lifted from the drowning of life.

Tears

Living with the demand,
To give without asking,
Never allowed to wear down,

You glide through life,
Never showing the cracks,
Holding on to the hurt,

Never admitting weakness,
Always pushing to the end,
Wishing there was more to life,

Coming into your life,
I seek what is inside,
To know all you are,

Slowly your heart breaks,
Wishing to confess all,
To release the burden,

As my voice soothes,
Offering a quiet peace,
Until you burst open,

The words flow freely,
As I hold you in love,
In tears of freedom.

Still Valuable

Slowly consumed from within,
Lost in what others need,
The reflection no longer you,

Your life lived as a ghost,
Giving what everyone needs,
Never seeking what you need,

As you crumble to the ground,
All hope slipping from you,
Until there is no dream left,

Breathing air into your life,
My eyes telling you the truth,
That I am here because of you,

As the weight of life is shed away,
Learning it is okay to be broken,
That you are still valuable.

Broken Free

Your strength an illusion,
Blinded to the truth,
Causing pain is your tool,

While you smile with kindness,
You craft your words to hurt,
So you can feel untouchable,

Until you find a foe in love,
A man with a soft fire,
One you cannot beat,

Steady and true in words,
He withstands all you do,
Showing what strength is,

Lashing out in anger to win,
As his poise never wavers,
His words full of truth,

Your mask exposed to you,
Having to face yourself,
You crumble to the ground,

Finally ready to seek peace,
To uplift others,
Broken free from the hate.

Hard Truth

A life lived for the best,
Never settling for less,
Standards no one has,

Demanding all you desire,
Everything that you want,
Never seeing what you need,

Crushing all that is pure,
Destroying hearts blindly,
Until the heart betrays you,

Gentleness enters your life,
A simple caring soul,
Someone beneath you,

Giving their rich heart to you,
As you squander it as nothing,
Until they are completely used,

Discarded for greater things,
The heart revolts on you,
Feeling the void left,

Seeking their comfort again,
The unspeakable wealth they gave,
To find nothing left to find,

Feeling the sting of true love,
Of what was rejected for status,
Learning the hard truth.

Humbled

A life lived in looks,
As warm as the reflection,
Hollow to the core,

A beautiful dream alive,
Full of grace and charm,
You seduce all you see,

Crushing all that is pure,
Devouring it with ease,
As your mask slips away,

Time aging what you see,
Betrayed by the clock,
Your power slipping away,

Seeking the love discarded,
None left to be manipulated,
Leaving you humbled.

His Eyes

A life lived unseen,
The ugly stepsister,
Never the swan,

Giving all you have,
A true kind heart,
Filled with grace,

Watching life pass,
Wishing for far more,
Giving all what you seek,

Until you're finally seen,
The fire hidden within,
Touched by true love,

Lifted from the ashes,
Cleansed by his touch,
An angel in his eyes.

Medusa

Singing your song of seduction,
Luring men to your call,
Your beauty unmatched,

With your Medusa touch,
Turning hearts to stone,
Leaving no survivors,

Searching for your next prey,
You face an unknown foe,
That is steady and kind,

Your tricks failing to work,
His eyes reflect the truth,
Revealing the beast within,

Seeing the pain you gave,
Your heart crumbles,
Wishing to be set free,

Your touch becomes warm,
Learning to care once more,
To finally give love.

Conquered

Fighting to find a war,
Never seeking peace,
Only dominance over all,

Trampling over any foe,
Everyone a stepping stone,
A climb that is never done,

Facing your greatest fear,
A soul that will not bend,
That stands firm against you,

You struggle to defeat,
To engage in a fight,
But you do not prevail,

No angry words spoken,
Their kind firmness stands,
Defeating the tyrant in you,

Submitting to the loss,
Surrendering to their rule,
Ready to be led,

They uplift you with warmth,
To share the walk together,
For love conquered all.

Flawless

Staring at the pages,
Your heart sinks low,
Looking at what is desired,

Hiding every flaw,
Covering all you hate,
Trying to copy the images,

Polishing yourself perfectly,
Every detail in place,
A life curated by others,

Terrified to show the truth,
To allow the real you shine,
Being true to your heart,

Meeting a calm gaze,
A warmth you never knew,
One that sees beneath the gloss,

As he wipes away the mask,
Exposing what is real,
Finally seen completely,

Fearing the fall of rejection,
But all you feel is love,
A peace you've never known,

Your imperfections fade away,
As you look into his eyes,
Allowing yourself to be flawless.

Section II — The Encounter

Before You Speak

The weight of the day clinging to you,
As it consumes your every breath,
Leaving you struggling to survive,

Your eyes scream for release,
A comfort you cannot find,
Hoping no one notices the cracks,

Seeking a shore to crash upon,
A place to escape from the storm,
To hide in safety,

Through your grief I see you,
The heaviness of your spirit,
I feel the ache you carry,

Coming gently towards you,
My presence steady and sure,
A place you can simply be free,

Falling into me without a sound,
Your body relaxing at my touch,
All before you speak a word.

My Quiet Embrace

No one seeing the chaos beneath,
Through your mask of calm,
Holding the day together by sheer will,

Life's demands consuming you whole,
Squeezing the life from your soul,
Leaving you weak and weary,

Your thoughts filled with storms,
A desire to escape is building,
To finally be set free,

Locking out the world behind you,
Your defenses begin to falter,
As my warm voice greets you,

As you try not to come undone,
Your eyes betray what you feel,
Revealing the truth you've hidden,

Your breath eases at my sight,
Tears you held now escaping,
No one here to judge as you break,

As you melt into my arms,
A place the world can never reach,
In the quiet of my embrace.

Your Night Calm

Entering into the light,
Life teeming all around,
As you join the rush,

Working hard to survive,
The weight of staying strong,
To see all things are done,

Your soul withering,
Thirsting for life,
To release what is within,

Drifting through the door,
Shutting out the world,
You smell my presence,

Rushing toward me in spirit,
You glide up to my side,
Yearning to be free,

I turn to see the despair,
Cradling your face in my hands,
As I take the pain away,

Leading you by the hand,
Until you are within my arms,
The day melting away,
In your night of calm.

Warm Shadows

Facing the cold world,
Their words piercing you,
You smile as if all is right,

The soul trembles within,
Wondering if there is any hope,
To break free from this curse,

Your eyes close to the pain,
Wishing to find yourself,
To be set free completely,

Suddenly feeling my touch,
Your breath quickens in shock,
As I gently raise your head,

Looking deep into your eyes,
Seeing past your words,
Where you cannot hide,

Shuddering in fear of being hurt,
As my arms wrap you in peace,
Holding you gently to my chest,

As you hear my heart beat steady,
You hear simple words,
That you are not alone anymore,

Pulling you closer toward me,
Where none can find you,
To rest in my warm shadows.

Silent Haven

Using your heart as armor,
As life clings to your skin,
Weighing your spirit down,

Pushing through the strain,
Trying not to fall apart,
To hold yourself together,

Your spirit aching quietly,
Longing for a place to rest,
Solace from the world,

Your mind drifting to your desire,
To feel my presence around you,
A comforting shadow to embrace,

Your strength finally trembling,
As you drift toward my calm,
No words left to hide behind,

Wrapping your arms around me,
As a ship anchors in a storm,
My body holding you close,

Where life cannot reach you,
Where you can finally breathe,
The past let go so you can be free,

Held against my chest,
The burdens slipping away,
Finding your silent haven.

No Fear

It grips you tightly,
The dread of what isn't,
Of what could be,

As you look at me,
The words struggle to come,
But you desire to share,

Wrestling with yourself,
You swallow your pride,
Sharing all that is there,

My words are simple,
Carrying certainty,
The calmness you seek,

Collapsing in release,
Knowing you are safe,
That there is no fear here.

The Thaw

The reality of the day grips you,
Colder than a winter storm,
Numbing you to the very core,

Aching from the heavy chill,
It settles deep on your chest,
Your thoughts longing for peace,

Your soul distant and frozen,
You lock the world out behind you,
Wishing this was not your life,

In the quiet shadows of evening,
My presence stands before you,
Seeing the need in your eyes,

Calling you into my arms,
Drawing you into my warmth,
You tremble at the thaw I give.

SECTION III — The Awakening

How I See You

Your head held down by life,
Fractured from all the pain,
Not daring to dream anymore,

Hiding your brilliance deeply,
Seeing only your flaws now,
A pain others have gifted,

But I see beneath the dullness,
The quiet depth of your soul,
An unspoken hope left inside,

With a gentle touch I show you,
That you can still fly high,
As you allow the shackles to fall,

Above the dark clouds of life,
Your strong wings carry you,
Soaring toward your dreams,

Showing your vivid colors,
As your eyes are filled with fire,
Finally seeing yourself as I see you.

The Return

Finally seeing the truth,
Staring through my eyes,
You see yourself again,

Never holding you back,
But always lifting you up,
Believing in your dreams,

All doubt melted away,
As you believe in yourself,
The fire inside returning.

Morning Light

The morning sun kissing your skin,
Waking you from your slumber,
As you wipe the sleep away,

Seeing me lie before you,
Your mind drifts back,
As you stare at my face,

How the ache has been soothed,
Pain's domination is gone,
The past no longer in control,

You see the path before us,
Where we walk together,
Never letting go in the storm,

As a sigh leaves your lips,
A gentle shift inside is felt,
Where fear cannot grow.

Renewed

Unwilling to change,
The world lashes at you,
Cutting deeply to the core,

Through the pain you hope,
As parts of you disappear,
Still wishing for your dreams,

Until your blood runs dry,
But never forgetting your desire,
As you grind through life,

Until I float into your life,
Almost completely unnoticed,
Like a gentle summer breeze,

Without you ever asking,
Giving you what you need,
Like a soothing balm,

As your gentleness blooms,
Your heart opens again,
A hope renewed.

Never Needing

Eyes dimmed by the world,
No longer living in dreams,
Hope tarnished by pain,

Drifting through a cold life,
Seeking only hollowness,
Flashes of fake passion,

Until I shake your beliefs,
Giving without taking,
Seeing the truth within you,

Still accepting you as you are,
As you fight the truth inside,
Lashing out from your wounds,

Unable to chase me away,
You finally begin to see clearly,
All the beauty I see in you,

As you learn to feel again,
Accepting who you are,
Never needing to be more.

Awoken

Passing through life alone,
A dream of your making,
Forged by sheer force,

But learning the cold truth,
That freedom is with another,
One that shares your dreams,

Walking together in harmony,
Finding the joy of giving,
The release of connection,

Seeing the world come alive,
All your senses heightened,
A joy of living embraces you,

Beside one another we glide,
Facing all that may come,
In a life finally awoken.

Roots

The final doubt erased,
A soul set free to live,
No longer chained,

You reach out to me,
With a sure hand,
Trusting in our future,

Finally finding home,
Where you want to stay,
Allowing your roots to grow.

Section IV — The Mutual Opening

Free Together

Withholding your tenderness,
Fearing being seen as weak,
Never allowing anyone inside,

Withering from the self-exile,
From hiding your heart away,
Never willing to let yourself relent,

But the drought grows deeper,
The emptiness eating at your soul,
Consumed by your shadows,

A heart finally ready to hope,
Ready to fill your parched spirit,
You allow your armor to fall,

Trembling at my tender touch,
Fearing you are losing yourself,
Becoming someone you are not,

Cradling your face in my hands,
Seeing the truth in my eyes,
Showing that I see the real you,

As you submit to our love,
A love that demands no price,
Where you are finally whole,

Finally seeing love as a strength,
Two souls bound as one,
Able to be free together.

Rest Together

As the dark clouds gather around,
Bracing for what comes next,
You hear the crackle of the storm,

Already overburdened with life,
Only knowing how to survive,
As you are beaten into the mud,

Finally collapsing from the weight,
Your strength utterly consumed,
Closing your eyes to the brutality,

Feeling the world breaking you,
You suddenly feel a gentle touch,
Offering you a hand to stand again,

As the wind beats against us,
We dig deeper into the clay,
Helping each other to stand,

Finally seeing the strength of two,
Where there is no demand,
No surrender of who you are,

As the rage of life continues,
You find a place of strength,
A place to rest together.

Her Strength

Forced to face life alone,
Selected for your strength,
A rock they depend on,

Strained but never broken,
Finding strength from love,
Always moving forward,

As your heart grows tired,
The soul cries for care,
Wishing for a renewing,

Praying for true love,
A wish to be seen,
You find a helping soul,

Finding grace in his touch,
Where you may soften,
Allowing yourself to open,

Freed from the inner pain,
You grasp my hand tightly,
Ready for all that may come.

Saved Together

Seeing yourself in him,
One that has endured,
Left broken inside,

As he shrinks from life,
You reach out with care,
Showing him grace,

Soothing his wounds,
Lifting his soul up,
Until he stands with fire,

A knight left to wither,
Finding a new cause,
To stand beside you,

With his strong hands,
You grasp on tightly,
Being saved together.

Stronger Together

Both disillusioned by life,
The hope of joy gone,
Only repetition survives,

Seeing similar wounds,
We learn to slowly share,
Creating a balm of words,

Our hearts feeling again,
No longer a bleak outlook,
But stronger together.

SECTION V — The Choosing

Ablaze

The unknown before you,
A path never taken,
Your heart skips in fear,

Questioning your strength,
Seeking to hide yourself,
Safe within the shadows,

Shrinking away you feel me,
A gentle touch of my hand,
With tender words of comfort,

Searching my eyes for truth,
The heart starts to believe,
Faith renewed in yourself,

Stepping forward together,
Strong together in life,
Blazing a trail to your dreams.

Completed

Guided by a core strength,
Always striving to be more,
To be the best at everything,

Cutting a path to your dreams,
Never looking back,
Too busy soaring high,

But learning the cold truth,
Surrounded by things,
A life lived alone is hollow,

Facing your greatest fear,
Without love you have nothing,
That fierceness is not enough,

But finding me before you,
You start learning to breathe,
To surrender to yourself,

Allowing your heart to be free,
To give all that you have,
Knowing together we are complete.

The Risk

Battered through life,
Learning to shut down,
Accepting this is it,

Grinding away your life,
Never stopping to rest —
To observe the damage,

A chance meeting,
That reaches the soul,
Awakening your fear,

Running from comfort,
Trying to hide from it,
But the heart won't yield,

Day after day you resist,
The resolve melting slowly,
Until you rush to me,

Confessing your feelings,
Laying it all out,
Risking it all for true love.

Love Prevails

Living life with passion,
Fire in all that you do,
The thrill never enough,

Always seeking more,
To fuel your addiction,
But always left empty,

As a calm voice enters,
Flowing like a cool stream,
Tempering your spirit,

Fighting the peace he gives,
As you melt by his touch,
Finding the draw too hard,

Your heart steadies within,
Accepting the truth,
Where true love to prevails.

Hope

Never seeing one another,
But always close together,
Not showing what's within,

Finding my heart missing,
Knowing it left for you,
Scared to admit my love,

But seeing a bright future,
I take your hand in mine,
Confessing all that I see,

Vulnerable before you,
Your touch softens in mine,
As you delve into my eyes,

Two lost souls found,
Ready for the next chapter,
Facing life with hope.

Our Life

A life lived in dreams,
Wishing to find more,
But dreams elude you,

Finding a mutual kinship,
A soul that understands,
Where love grows strong,

Gazing into each other,
Perfection in imperfection,
Finally seen completely,

Choosing to share souls,
Linking our lives as one,
In a life of our making.

SECTION VI — The Union

Peace of Love

Facing life with grace,
Walking with integrity,
Giving joy to everyone,

But internally you struggle,
As life shifts like sand,
Consuming all your strength,

Seeking surety to stand on,
You find solace in my touch,
Anchored firmly together,

As we walk in harmony,
A sweet melody of unity,
The peace of love forever.

Haven

Facing the blistering wind,
Unmoved by the rage,
We stand strong for love,

Pushing through the pain,
Holding true to our vows,
Seeking comfort together,

Our strength shared as one,
That neither should stumble,
Never left behind in the cold,

A silhouette of hope appears,
Moving through the doors,
Escaping the worlds grip,

Cuddling together in peace,
Gazing at the fire dance,
Together in our haven.

Two Hearts

Freed from the chains of pain,
Where life has no more bite,
We stand together as one,

Locked together in truth,
Honor always on our lips,
Never seeking another,

Finally seen completely,
Every scar healed within,
For nothing is hidden away,

Dancing to our sweet tune,
A love that springs life,
And two hearts are one.

Melt Together

Looking deeply into each other,
As we hold our breaths,
Seeing how we have bloomed,

Gone are the pains of the past,
The nights without warmth,
Wishing for a glimmer of love,

Stroking your gentle face,
Your beauty seen in my eyes,
As a deep sigh escapes,

Knowing we have made it,
No more emptiness inside,
As we melt together as one.

Copyright Notice

Copyright © 2026 Caspian J. Karst

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form without written permission from the author.

URL: https://caspiankarst.blogspot.com/
https://buymeacoffee.com/caspiankarst